

HOUSE RESOLUTION 18
By Roach

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Bill Gardner on being selected a member of the Tennessee Junior/Community College Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially recognize coaches whose exemplary efforts mold successful athletes into successful citizens; and

WHEREAS, Bill Gardner, Walters State Community College's first athletic coach was recently honored with his induction into the prestigious Tennessee Junior/Community College Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, a native of Fall Branch, he is a former professional athlete who was drafted by the Boston Red Sox during his junior year at Tusculum College; and

WHEREAS, Coach Gardner was named coach at Walters State in 1972, with responsibilities in both baseball and basketball. He coached both sports for two years, relinquishing his basketball duties to concentrate on baseball; and

WHEREAS, due to his outstanding leadership, Coach Gardner's teams compiled numerous records, many of which stand unequaled in the history of TJCCAA; and

WHEREAS, in the 1980s, Coach Gardner's teams averaged a phenomenal 27 wins per season and won the coveted conference championship three consecutive seasons; and

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WHEREAS, his teams were also ranked in the top twenty nationally three times, finishing the 1983-1984 regular season ranked fifth and competing in the Junior College World Series; and

WHEREAS, Coach Gardner was chosen conference Coach of the Year three times, and one of the ten national Coaches of the Year in his final season; and

WHEREAS, three of his players were named to All-American teams, and approximately 25 were drafted in the professional baseball draft; and

WHEREAS, Coach Gardner retired from baseball coaching in 1984 and subsequently turned his attention to coaching his third sport, golf; and

WHEREAS, Coach Gardner's golf teams have been called the best junior college teams in Tennessee and Kentucky in the 1990s; and

WHEREAS, for the past seven years, his teams have won the TJCAA and NJCAA Region VII championships; and

WHEREAS, Coach Gardner's 1995 team won the national junior college golf championship, his 1995 and 1996 teams each finished sixth nationally, and his 1994 team finished as the 14th best in the nation; and

WHEREAS, he has received six TJCAA and NJCAA Golf Coach of the Year awards; and

WHEREAS, Coach Gardner also serves admirably as a faculty member in the psychology department at Walters State; and

WHEREAS, included among his many honors is his membership in the Tusculum College Athletic Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, college president Dr. Jack Campbell said, "Coach Gardner is a gentleman and a man of high integrity who has contributed greatly to athletics and Walters State and to the state of Tennessee. He has won with character, and he has demonstrated loyalty to the college and the state association. Most importantly, Coach Gardner has contributed to the lives of

literally thousands of student athletes who have gone on to be successful citizens throughout the state and nation.”; and

WHEREAS, Walters State Athletic Director Ron Carr, who first hired him to coach at the school said, “It is especially fitting that Gardner receives this honor during the 25th year of Walters State’s athletic program. He has been a key component in our program’s reaching the high level of achievement it has enjoyed.”; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we pause in our deliberations to salute this excellent coach; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we honor and congratulate Coach Bill Gardner on being chosen a member of the Tennessee Junior/Community College Hall of Fame and wish him well in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.